

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 L-03 H-03 INRE-00 DRC-01

FTC-01 SSO-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 /068 W

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O 271717Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7443

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 2689

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: STRIKE THREAT TO US FIRM

1. ALBERTO HANDAL, HONDURAN CITIZEN PRESIDENT OF BEMIS - HANDAL IN SAN PEDRO SULA, PHONED CHARGE ON JUNE 25, AND SAID THAT HIS FIRM WAS THREATENED WITH ILLEGAL STRIKE OF COMPANY UNION ON JULY 2. FIRM IS ABOUT 60 PERCENT OWNED BY BEMIS COMPANY INCORPORATED, OF MINNEAPOLIS.

2. HANDAL ASKED CHARGE TO INTERVENE WITH GENERAL LOPEZ TO SQUASH STRIKE. HE SAID HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SPOKEN TO COL. GARCIA, SECOND ZONE COMMANDER, WHO PROMISED SUPPORT. HANDAL HAS ALSO OBTAINED HELP AND ADVICE FROM PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ORGANIZATIONS, I.E. ANDI, COHEP, AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HE SAID HE REFUSED TO CONSULT WITH MINISTER OF LABOR FONSECA, BECAUSE LATTER WOULD ONLY FAVOR THE UNION.

3. CHARGE INFORMED HANDAL THAT EMBASSY WOULD NOT INTERVENE WITH CHIEF OF STATE, AND THAT IT WAS OUR POLICY TO STAY OUT OF LABOR/ MANAGEMENT DISPUTES. CHARGE EXPRESSED OUR INTEREST IN CASE HOWEVER, AND INVITED HANDAL TO COME TO EMBASSY TO DISCUSS IT. HE REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT LEAVE SAN PEDRO SULA BUT WOULD SEND SOME BACKGROUND MATERIAL TO EMBASSY. THIS HAS NOT YET ARRIVED.

4. IN VIEW OF SUBSTANTIAL AMERICAN INTEREST AND IMMINENCE OF STRIKE,
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WE ARE TODAY SENDING LABATT TO SAN PEDRO TO INTERVIEW HANDAL AND

CELEO GONZALEZ, PRESIDENT OF FESITRANH, CONFEDERATION TO WHICH
THIS COMPANY UNION BELONGS.

5. COMMENT. AT FIRST GLANCE, SITUATION BEARS SOME RESEMBLANCE
TO LOVABLE BRASSIERE STRIKE, WHICH MANAGEMENT AND UNION BOTH
POLITICIZED INTO MAJOR CONFRONTATION.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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